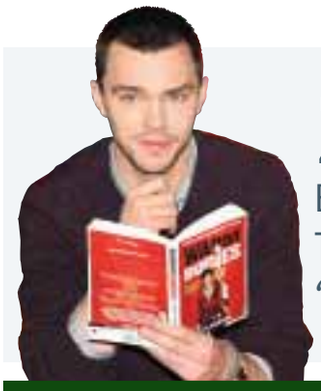

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It's the rolling budget review

Running the numbers. In Coun. Judy Bryant's absence, committee finds some $16M in cuts, new revenue needed for tax freeze

ANGELA MULLINS
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The city's march toward zero is turning into more of a crawl.

After a session that took most of the day, and saw countless back-and-forth exchanges between all 14 councillors present, a council committee gave the green light on Thursday to $4 million worth of cuts and new revenue — the first steps in a $20-million effort to freeze taxes for 2013.

Higher user fees for services ranging from arenas to rental-housing licences would generate the new revenue ($421,000).

Only one cut would have a direct impact on services — sweeping streets just once a year.

About $1.1 million less than expected would be put into reserves for replacing city vehicles and making buildings accessible to people with disabilities. Coun. Joe Swan stressed that plenty will still go into reserves, even with the reductions.

The moves were all too familiar for Coun. Nancy Branscombe, who repeatedly criticized colleagues for "raiding reserves" to avoid a 2012 tax increase.

"My big fear … is it's false economy," she said, noting property owners will bear the brunt of "bad decisions." "We have to be careful because the taxpayers are going to be paying for that, and it's going to be in (the form of) higher taxes."

Councillors voted 9 to 5 to put $2 million into an affordable-housing reserve fund, instead of the suggested $1 million. The lower contribution, city staff said, would have landed the program in a deficit by 2015.

Economic development initiatives would get $1.1 million less, something administrators say won't stall existing projects. Money for a program to support downtown revitalization would be eliminated.

The committee postponed a decision about ending a grant program, worth $250,000, that helps non-profits with capital projects. A debate about keeping $95,000 for a green-bin pilot project went undecided, and will be decided at full council.

Councillors rejected proposals to clear debris from walkways only once every three years instead of annually and cut the hours spent clearing snow from sidewalks. Combined, they would save $155,000.

"I'm not even willing to go there," Mayor Joe Fontana, a leading proponent of freezing taxes, said about the snow removal. "That should tell you something."

How it works

- Budget debates are being handled by the strategic priorities and policy committee. All councillors sit on the committee, so there's a good chance decisions made there will take effect. But nothing is final until full council approves the budget on Feb. 28.
- The committee will continue budget talks at 9 a.m. on Friday with proposed cuts to funding requests for transit, police and the library on the agenda.
- About $3-million in proposed cuts were talked about behind closed doors on Thursday because they deal with personnel issues.

The budget wrangling between Mayor Joe Fontana, fourth from left, and councillors Bud Polhill, Joni Baechler, Paul Van Meerbergen, Harold Usher and others will no doubt continue until final approval on Feb. 28. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

NEWS 1

Victoria Street office

More charges against psychiatrist

London police are encouraging former patients of suspended psychiatrist Stanley Dobrowolski to come forward if they have any information which could help the continuing investigation.

Police recently searched Dobrowolski's Victoria Street office computers and found seven incidents where he allegedly video-recorded women without their knowledge during physical examinations. The review of the computer data is ongoing.

The alleged offences were recorded from 2007 to October 2012. Police are attempting to identify these women. Contact London police at 519-660-5842 or project@police.london.ca.

Dobrowolski was previously charged in November 2012 with two counts of sexual assault and one count of voyeurism. **METRO**

Extracurricular activities

TVDSB to issue refunds following cancelled sports season

Officials with the Thames Valley District School Board say parents can expect at least partial refunds, following the cancellation of the winter high school sports season.

No games had been played since Dec. 10 after teachers refused to take part in extracurricular activities, and the remainder of the season was scrapped by the board Tuesday.

Officials say parents and students who paid to play will get a refund.

Individual schools will be responsible for handing out refunds. They expect to have more information on the process next week.

AM980/AM980.CA

Bernard Valcourt, Canada's associate minister of national defence, right, tries out a simulation device with MP Susan Truppe (London North Centre) inside the Kongsberg Protech Systems Canada production facility on Thursday. London West MP Ed Holder, far left, and Allan Finney of Kongsberg are also pictured.

JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Manufacturing jobs coming in the fall

Kongsberg Protech Systems. $100M subcontract will create permanent positions for skilled workers

JOHN MATISZ
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Sixteen jobs will be inserted into the local economy this fall, as Kongsberg Protech Systems Canada has announced plans to double its workforce in London.

The Norwegian-owned company's Huron Street production facility, which was opened in November 2011, has been awarded a $100-million subcontract. Rheinmetall Canada, which has been contracted out by the Department of National Defence, has hired Kongsberg to manufacture a modern weapons system.

"This contract is a prime example of how investments in refurbishing and replacing the equipment we provide our armed forces results in high quality jobs for skilled Canadians who will support and maintain the equipment for years to come," said Bernard Valcourt, Canada's associate minister of national defence.

The full-time permanent positions at Kongsberg are skills based and aimed at people trained in the engineering field. Kongsberg will begin the hiring process in the fall, says Allan Finney, its director of business development and marketing.

The weapons system Kongsberg produces will be attached to the roof of the army's fledging tactical armoured patrol vehicles. The Textron-made vehicles are designed to protect Canadian soldiers from snipers, explosions, and debris, while also giving operators full control of weaponry in all weather conditions.

"Every time I talk to the guys, the soldiers, they tell me it works," said Finney, of Kongsberg equipment being used currently by the Canadian military. "Every time they need it, it works."

Delivery date

The first deliveries of the new vehicles are expected in 2014, with the rollout coming two years later.

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Skates on. Local to take Budweiser Gardens spotlight in Disney on Ice

Jacob Marsh is living proof that an uncertain future isn't always a bad thing.

Not sure where he was headed after high school, Marsh's figure skating coach suggested he try out for a job with Disney on Ice.

"I just went for it," the 20-year-old Londoner said. "I sent in some audition (videos), and they contacted me a few weeks later."

The rest, as they say, is history.

Marsh laced up his Disney skates in September 2011 and has been touring the world since then — earning a living from the hobby he started honing as a child.

Jacob Marsh CONTRIBUTED

He'll rub elbows with local crowds this week as Disney on Ice's 100 Years of Magic makes a four-day stand at Budweiser Gardens.

It's a moment Marsh, a product of the Ilderton Skating Club, has been turning over in the back of his mind since the show started.

He last skated at Budweiser Gardens during a celebration of Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir's gold-medal run at the 2010 Olympics.

At the time, the event's 5,000-person crowd seemed big. Now, he routinely skates in front of 10,000 people several nights a week.

The Disney crowds are a welcome break from panels of judges Marsh faced on the competitive figure-skating circuit, he said.

"It's about making people smile, making them enjoying what they're seeing," Marsh said. "I love seeing the smiles when you step out onto the ice."

Marsh, who plans to start university when his contract with Disney is up, plays multiple roles in the show, including Snow White's prince.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Evening raid

Multiple drugs, weapons charges in police takedown

London police have charged four adults and a young offender after seizing prohibited weapons, ammunition, and more than $9,900 worth of drugs Wednesday night.

At 6:50 p.m., a search at 812 Adelaide St. N. (just north of Oxford Street) revealed: 829.1 grams of hash (valued at $8,291), 162.2 grams of marijuana ($1,622), a butterfly knife, spring-loaded knife, flick knife, an expandable baton,157 rounds of .22 calibre ammunition, 19 rounds of .38 calibre ammunition, four 12-gauge shotgun shells, and a sawed-off shotgun.

John Grebenchan, 47, Johnny Grebenchan, 22, Mary McAndrews, 44, Jamie Clements, 18, and a young offender — all from London — were charged with various firearm and drug offences.

Johnny Grebenchan and John Grebenchan are also charged with three counts of possessing a firearm while prohibited. Clements faces an additional charge of possess prohibited weapon.

METRO

UPwithART sets lofty goals for Unity Project

Fundraiser. UPwithART will be held at Palace Theatre on April 27

JOHN MATISZ
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Ron Benner, left, major donor to UPwithART, and Sarah White, chair of UPwithART, stand next to a framed piece created by artist Clark McDougall. The work of art, titled Burke's Barn, will be a door prize at the April 27 fundraiser.
JOHN MATISZ/METRO

The event may be four months away, but organizers of UPwithART aren't letting that stop them from raising the fundraising bar.

They project the community art sale can bring in about $44,000 in donations, which is twice the amount collected last year. Proceeds from the silent auction go toward the Unity Project for Relief of Homelessness in London.

"The donations keep our doors open, keep the lights on, the heat on, phones answered when people need support," said Silvia Langer, development manager at Unity Project, an emergency shelter and transitional housing facility located at 717 Dundas St.

UPwithART will be held at Palace Theatre on April 27. About 80 pieces of art, created by a mixture of local, national, and international artists, will be available for purchase via silent auction.

Local talents Jamelie Hassan and Ron Benner are donating more than 40 pieces to the show, in part due to a devotion to the area's tight-knit arts community.

"The best way (London artists) know how to survive is by working together," Hassan said. "It's part of the way we live our life."

Unity Project resident Jack Butterman, 76, hasn't been living there long enough to provide a first-hand account of a past UPwithART event. However, he's well aware of its impact.

"This is the money that supports the whole program," he said. "The balloon stays up because of this money."

Unity Project serves approximately 600 individuals in a calendar year, according to Langer, with beds being used 12,500 times and 44,000 meals given out over that period to Londoners who have fallen on hard times.

Details on Unity Project

For more information, visit unityproject.ca

London-based. Former Trojan Technologies CFO charged with fraud

The former chief financial officer of a London-based water treatment tech company has been charged with fraud.

Police have charged Robert Wood, ex-CFO of Trojan Technologies, with fraud of more than $5,000. A police investigation found $328,218 in alleged fraudulent transactions.

On Thursday afternoon, he resigned from the South West Local Health Integration Network's (SWLHIN) board after 18 months of service, according to SWLHIN CEO Michael Barrett. Previously, he was a member of St. Joseph's Health Care's board. Wood, 46, of London, turned himself in Tuesday.

JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Hospitalizations

One new flu death reported

The Middlesex-London Health Unit reported one new influenza-related death this week, and it was a previously reported case.

Between Jan. 15 and the end of day Monday, 34 new laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases were reported, resulting in 18 hospitalizations. There were no influenza B cases during the week.

Two new influenza A outbreaks were declared, one in a long-term care home and the other in an acute-care hospital, bringing the total to 34 flu outbreaks this season.

As of Jan. 14, 397 lab-confirmed influenza A cases and three influenza B cases have been reported in Middlesex-London. There have been 199 hospitalizations and 16 deaths.

METRO

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India. Rape-and-murder trial starts behind closed doors in fast-track court

The trial of five men charged with the rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a New Delhi bus began Thursday with opening arguments by the prosecution in a special fast-track court set up just weeks ago to handle sexual-assault cases.

A sixth suspect has claimed he is a juvenile and is expected to be tried in a juvenile court.

On Thursday, a magistrate separately rejected a petition by Subramanian Swamy, a prominent politician, that no leniency be shown toward the accused who claims to be a juvenile because of the brutal nature of the crime, said Jagdish Shetty, an aide to Swamy.

Magistrate Geetanjali Goel is expected to rule on the suspect's age on Jan. 28.

Since Friday is a public holiday in India, the next hearing in the case was set for Monday, when the defence will present its opening arguments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gag order

The courtroom was closed to the public and the media — a routine move in Indian rape cases — even though defence lawyers had argued that since the victim is dead, the proceedings should be opened.

Cloud Atlas

Chinese censors slash love scenes

Nearly 40 minutes have been chopped from the film Cloud Atlas for Chinese audiences, deleting both gay and straight love scenes to satisfy censors despite a public that increasingly chafes at censorship.

China allows only 34 foreign films to be shown each year in its movie theatres, which don't have a classification system. All movies must be acceptable to adults and children of any age. Censors also target anything that portrays China or the Chinese in a negative light.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Military 'more powerful' with women: Pentagon

There are 48 women presently working on the front lines in Afghanistan, deployed as the second Female Engagement team. PAULA BRONSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES

Front-line combat.
Lifting the U.S. ban on female fighters will take time to implement

Allowing women to serve in combat roles will strengthen the U.S. military's ability to win wars, Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said Thursday, shortly before his official announcement of the landmark lifting of the ban.

"Our military is more capable, and our force is more powerful, when we use all of the great diverse strengths of the American people," Panetta said.

President Barack Obama supports the Pentagon's decision and believes the country should continue to remove "unnecessary gender-based barriers to service," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

The decision presents a daunting challenge to military leaders who will have to decide which, if any, jobs they believe should be open only to men.

Women comprise about 14 per cent of the 1.4 million active military personnel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Problem of respect

Ban tied to sexual assault

The top U.S. military officer says he believes the rise in sexual assaults in the military can be linked to the longstanding ban on women serving in combat.

Gen. Martin Dempsey said Thursday the problem is due partly to the military's separate classes of personnel — male "warriors" versus the rest.

Dempsey says the issue is more complicated than that but he indicates the disparity between the roles of men and women has created a psychology that lends itself to disrespect.

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Sean SonHing, president of Electronic-cigz.com, started his journey into the world of vaping more than four years ago in hopes of finding something that would finally help him quit smoking.

As a 20-year cigarette smoker of a pack a day, SonHing assessed the harm of cigarettes and desperately wanted to quit. After trying every method, he didn't find anything that worked for him.

In 2008, SonHing purchased his first electronic cigarette kit from China and was amazed at how the vapour produced and emulated smoking. He had finally found something that helped him quit. When vaping an e-cig, his cravings were satisfied and he was still able to enjoy the physical sensations of inhaling and letting out plumes of vapour.

After months of satisfaction, SonHing researched the market and started a company to help other smokers looking for solutions — but he wanted to offer the best. Research shows that the most important component for the best quality and safety is in the type of e-liquid used in the device. In 2009, e-cigz was the first in the market to offer electronic cigarette kits with 100 per cent U.S.-made liquid.

E-cigz holds strong to its original standards of offering U.S.-made, Crystal E-Liquid and pairs this with the highest-quality hardware in the market.

SonHing believes in the effectiveness and health benefits of these products and is passionate about offering them to smokers who have tried all means of quitting without success. E-cigz has thousands of satisfied customers across the world who have had similar success stories with their e-cigz.

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Getting the boot?

Ford to hear verdict Friday morning

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford will learn Friday morning if the courts have ejected him from office midway through his four-year term.

The news as to whether a divisional court panel has upheld or nullified a lower-court ruling that Ford breached the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act will be made public at 10:30 a.m.

Rob Ford
THE CANADIAN PRESS

If Ford loses, Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday will take over temporarily and council will vote on how to pick the next mayor.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'It's appalling'

Brampton boy, 9, fatally shot while watching TV

A nine-year-old boy was sitting in his living room watching TV when he was fatally shot in the head with a bullet fired from outside his house, police said Thursday.

Kesean Williams, a Grade 4 student, was shot Wednesday night and died hours later of his injuries in hospital. No arrests have been made yet, but police believe the house in Brampton was targeted.

Kesean, his 15-year-old brother and his mother moved into that house last week, said Peel Regional Police Acting Supt. George Koekkoek.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missing Canadians

Weather hampers rescue attempt

A rescue flight on its way to a group of Canadians on a missing plane in Antarctica has had to turn around due to bad weather that isn't expected to improve until at least early Friday.

But those who know the pilot of the downed Twin Otter say that if anyone would know how to get through, it would be Bob Heath. "He's a bit of a living legend up (north)," said friend Sebastien Seykora.

The airplane began transmitting signals from its emergency locator beacon early Wednesday. Aircraft tried twice to spot it in the mountainous area where it went down, but failed due to heavy cloud. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spence signs declaration opening new chapter for First Nations

Spence vs. Brazeau

Journalist captures Twitter tussle

Chief Theresa Spence and Senator Patrick Brazeau exchanged 140-character insults Thursday morning.

Spence was in hospital, but a tweet from the @ChiefTheresa Twitter account called Brazeau a "typical colonized Indian asshole" in response to his criticism of Idle No More.

The tweet has since been deleted, but a screenshot was captured by Saskatchewan reporter Jeremy Warren.

The pugilistic senator immediately hit back, referring to the comment as a "traditional angry victim speech."

A First Nations senator from Quebec and former chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Brazeau has been an outspoken opponent of Spence and the Idle No More movement. He often criticizes First Nations governance for what he feels is a lack of accountability.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO ONLINE

Political struggle. Vow to improve conditions for aboriginals agreed upon by chiefs, federal opposition parties

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence emerged from hospital Thursday to sign the First Nations declaration that ended her hunger protest after six long weeks — a period during which Stephen Harper barely uttered her name.

Indeed, for a crisis that just two weeks ago had the prime minister squarely at its centre, it seemed a weary and chaotic finale, one largely devoid of anti-Harper vitriol.

The Cree leader, who hadn't had solid food since Dec. 11, spent most of the day recovering in hospital, only to show up unannounced at a celebration that brought First Nations chiefs from across the country.

A chanting, drumming crowd greeted her at a downtown Ottawa hotel, where she thanked family, friends and supporters for their backing during the six chilly weeks she spent on Victoria Island, just upstream from Parliament Hill.

She suggested she now intends to step back from the political struggle.

"There you go, chiefs, you take over and I'll be part of the audience sometimes, so I'll be watching you guys," Spence said, calling for unity among First Nations leaders.

"It's time to really stay together no matter what hardship that we go through, and no matter what the government intends to do to us to divide us. Always remember that we're here together and we're here for our people, especially the youth."

Emissaries from federal opposition parties kept a low profile at the second ceremony, where Spence herself signed the declaration that had been so painstakingly crafted to bring her protest to a conclusion.

The end came as other chiefs and federal opposition parties vowed to take up her cause of treaty implementation and improved conditions on reserves. And it followed careful negotiation by interim Liberal leader Bob Rae.

Rae said he was concerned some days ago that there was a risk of the whole effort "going off the rails" if Spence didn't call a stop to her protest. He said he told Spence: "It's everyone's struggle. But no one should die."

The chiefs and the politicians signed the 13-point declaration committing them to seeking immediate improvements to native housing and education; a meeting of First Nations chiefs, the prime minister and Governor General; and full implementation of treaty and aboriginal rights within five years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, right, takes part in a celebration after ending her hunger strike. She sits with fellow hunger striker Raymond Robinson in Ottawa on Thursday after being released from hospital following an overnight stay. She was held for observation after she ended her six-week hunger protest. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

National interest

A new poll suggests Canadians remain confused by the efforts of aboriginal activists and leaders to improve their relationship with the rest of Canada.

- **40%.** The Canadian Press/Harris-Decima survey found just four in 10 respondents were both familiar with and sympathetic to the Idle No More cause.
- **Sympathy.** Almost two in three respondents who were aware of the movement's goals said they were sympathetic, with Atlantic Canada and British Columbia residents most likely to be supportive.

No sign of Harper

"Polls may come up and down ... To me, it's not about polls, it's about justice ... They just don't get it, frankly."

Interim Liberal leader Bob Rae on the Conservative government's reaction to requests from First Nations leaders to re-examine aboriginal issues.

Liberals. Decades-old system will decide premier

The antiquated system Ontario Liberals have chosen to pick a new leader at their party's leadership convention this weekend may add some drama to an otherwise lacklustre race, political observers predict.

While most parties allow each member to cast a leadership ballot, the new Liberal leader, who automatically will be Ontario's new premier, will be chosen by about 2,200 selected delegates and so-called ex-officios, including former and current MPs and MPPs.

The Liberals say it was because of the short time frame they had after Premier Dalton McGuinty announced his surprise resignation Oct. 15, saying he wanted a new leader in place by the end of January.

"The thing about a delegated convention which makes it interesting ... is it can take on a dynamic that right now nobody can predict," said Bryan Evans, associate professor at Ryerson University. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kindergarten. All-day learning too costly: Hudak

Ontario should delay further expansion of its full-day kindergarten program until the province's $11.9-billion deficit has been eliminated, Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said Thursday.

Hudak, who supported the roll out of all-day learning for four and five-year-olds before the 2011 election, said the province can't afford the program, which would cost $1.5 billion a year when fully implemented.

It's not a question of whether this is good program or a bad program, Hudak said. "It's what can you afford, and when you're staring at that type of a hole you need to make some difficult decisions now."

Full-day kindergarten is currently available to about 120,000 students in more than 1,700 of the 4,000 elementary schools in Ontario. Education Minister Laurel Broten lashed out at Hudak for repeatedly changing his position.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inquiry. Guard scolded for helping Ashley Smith

A correctional officer who scrambled to cut a ligature from the neck of a teenaged inmate as she turned dark purple was reprimanded for his efforts, an inquest into her death heard Thursday.

In fact, an emotional Blaine Phibbs testified a prison manager warned him he could be formally disciplined or even charged criminally if he went into Ashley Smith's cell again under similar circumstances.

"He told me there was no reason to go into the cell. As long as she was breathing, we were not to go into her cell."

Phibbs said he had difficulty cutting the ligature from her neck. The apparent life-saving measures only brought rebuke. Management insisted that what had taken place was "borderline excessive use of force," according to Phibbs.

"We thought she was in distress, that's why we entered the cell."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military

Canadian help for French-Mali mission extended

The Harper government's commitment of a giant Royal Canadian Air Force transport plane in support of the French military action in Mali has been extended to a month from one week.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird issued a joint statement Thursday saying the C-17 Globemaster will continue to ferry war materials and vehicles between France and the Malian capital of Bamako until Feb. 15.

They emphasized the aircraft will not be part of combat operations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politics

White House slams North Korean nuclear-test plan

North Korea's plan to conduct a third nuclear test is "needlessly provocative" and will only increase its isolation, the White House said Thursday, as the U.S. expanded its financial sanctions. Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said he has seen no outward sign that North Korea will follow through on its plan to conduct a test. But that doesn't mean preparations aren't under way.

"They have the capability ... to conduct these tests in a way that make it very difficult to determine whether or not they are doing it," Panetta said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Little progress in Syria, says French foreign minister

The French foreign minister is suggesting that the fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad is not imminent — a stark admission by France, one of the most ardent supporters of the Syrian rebels.

France was the first country to recognize the coalition fighting Assad as the only legitimate representative of the Syrian people. On Monday, France hosts a conference to support the coalition and to encourage donors to deliver on their pledges.

Laurent Fabius acknowledged Thursday that progress in Syria has ground to a halt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Westerners told to get out of Libya

Benghazi. Three European countries urging their citizens to evacuate eastern Libyan city due to imminent threat

Britain, Germany and the Netherlands urged their citizens Thursday to immediately leave the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi in response to what was described as an imminent threat against Westerners.

The warnings come a day after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testified to Congress about the September attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi that killed four Americans, including the ambassador to Libya. They also come as French troops battle al-Qaida-linked militants in Mali, and follow the deaths of dozens of foreigners taken hostage by Islamist extremists in Algeria — though it remained unclear if those events were linked to the European nations' concerns about Libya.

The foreign ministries of the three countries issued statements variously describing the threat as specific and imminent but none gave details.

Germany and Britain urged their nationals still in Benghazi to leave "immediately" while Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman Thijs van Son said that "staying in this area is not to be advised."

It was not immediately clear how many people could be affected; Britain's Foreign Office said likely "dozens" of its citizens were in the city, while van Son said there are four Dutch citizens registered as being in Benghazi and possibly two more. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hillary Clinton GETTY IMAGES

Convicted thief loses three of his sticky fingers

Authorities carry out the court-ordered amputation of the fingers of a convicted thief in a public square in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz, Thursday. The 29-year-old man was convicted for being part of a 10-member gang that carried out burglaries in the city and on charges of having "illegal relations," according to the Mehr news agency. He was sentenced to the amputation of three fingers, the confiscation of his property and three years in prison. Iran's legal system, based on Shariah, provides for amputation of limbs for theft. Mehr did not identify the man. MOHSEN TAVARRO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza. Teens graduate from Hamas military program

More than 3,000 Palestinian teenagers on Thursday graduated from the ruling Hamas militant group's first high school military training program in the Gaza Strip, displaying mock weapons, crawling commando-style on the ground and taking up fighting positions for thousands of cheering supporters.

Hamas officials said the Futuwwa, or "Youth," program is aimed at fostering a new generation of leaders in the struggle against Israel.

"We teach the youth to honour the national flag and anthem, to strengthen their affinity with the homeland and Jerusalem, the spirit of resistance and the principles of steadfastness," said Abu Hozifa, a 29-year-old national security officer who teaches in the program. "The program is a weekly elective that is offered in all Gaza high schools. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taught to love jihad

"My officer taught me the values of courage, sacrifice and love of jihad, as well as some battle tactics."
Radwan Wasfi, 15

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Ontario

Stalled talks. Palestinian president wants to meet Israeli centrist lawmakers

The Palestinian president wants to meet with newly elected Israeli parliament members to lay out his views on peace, hoping a political surge of centrists will provide an opening to resume long-stalled negotiations on a Palestinian state, a senior aide said Thursday.

President Mahmoud Abbas' main target appears to be Yair Lapid, leader of the moderate Yesh Atid (There is a Future) party, who is expected to be influential in setting the priorities of the next government.

Lapid has said he wants Israel to make a serious push for peace, though it is unclear how far he will press the issue in coalition negotiations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In recent public appearances, he has barely breached the issue, focusing instead on domestic economic concerns.

Lapid has campaigned on a domestic agenda that includes ending draft exemptions and government stipends for ultra-Orthodox Jews. But two incoming legislators from his party said Thursday that making peace with the Palestinians is just as important to him. Lapid might be forced to choose between those two issues because it seems nearly impossible to form a coalition that will deal with both issues.

Netanyahu is a hardliner and may balk at excluding right-wing parties from his coalition in order to move forward with peace talks.

Israeli-Palestinian talks on the terms of Palestinian statehood have been frozen since Netanyahu took office four years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We will also insist on an immediate start to peace negotiations, not just to get into negotiations but in order to reach a final status agreement with the Palestinians."

Yael German, an incoming legislator in Yesh Atid, insisting her party is serious about restarting peace negotiations.

Freed Frenchwoman gets hero's welcome

Frenchwoman Florence Cassez, left, is kissed by her mother Charlotte after landing at Roissy airport, north of Paris, Thursday. Cassez, who spent seven years in prison in Mexico on kidnapping charges, returned to a hero's welcome in Paris, declaring she had been cleared by the Mexican court that ordered her freed. However, the justices who freed her pointedly did not rule on her guilt or innocence, but said the violations of due process, the right to consular assistance and evidentiary rules in her case were so grievous that they invalidated the original guilty verdict against her. Cassez was arrested in 2005 and convicted of helping her Mexican boyfriend run a kidnapping gang. CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dolours Price. Veteran IRA bomber found dead at home

An Irish Republican Army veteran who accused Sinn Fein party chief Gerry Adams of involvement in IRA killings and bombings has been found dead in her home, police and politicians said Thursday.

Dolours Price, 61, was a member of the Provisional IRA unit that launched the very first car-bomb attacks on London in 1973. She became one of Irish republicanism's most trenchant critics of Adams and his conversion to political compromise in the British territory of Northern Ireland.

Police said her death Wednesday night at her home in Malahide, north of Dublin, was possibly the result of a drug overdose and foul play was not suspected.

In interviews, Price repeatedly described Adams as her IRA commander in Catholic west Belfast in the early 1970s when the outlawed group was secretly abducting, executing and burying more than a dozen suspected informers in unmarked graves. Adams rejects the charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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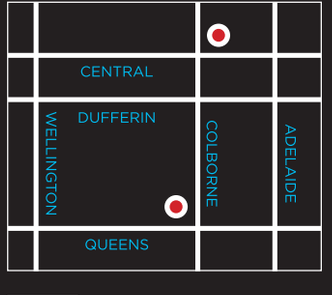

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Whopper shortage?

Burger King drops U.K. supplier over horsemeat furor

Burger King has stopped buying beef from an Irish meat processor whose patties were found to contain traces of horsemeat. The fast-food chain said Thursday it had dropped Silvercrest Foods as a supplier for its U.K. and Ireland restaurants as a "voluntary and precautionary measure." Last week Silvercrest recalled 10 million burgers from U.K. supermarket shelves after horse DNA was found. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Household debt

More Canadians keeping up with loan payments

Canadians are paying off their debts faster, with the number of those more than three months behind on loan payments dropping to a record low, according to a report Thursday from Equifax Canada. The latest National Credits Trends study by the credit-monitoring firm found the percentage of unpaid non-mortgage debt past-due more than 90 days was 1.19 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2012. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRTC

Carriers to support 911 texts for disabled users

Canadian wireless carriers must make changes to their networks and systems to support 911 emergency text messages from hearing- and speech-impaired persons who have pre-registered for the service, the country's federal telecom regulator said Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Security breach

U.K. regulator fines Sony over PlayStation attack

British regulators have fined Sony about $396,000 for failing to prevent a 2011 cyberattack on its PlayStation Network that put millions of users' personal information — including names, addresses, birth dates and account passwords — at risk. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McDonald's says the Alaskan pollock used in its Filet-O-Fish sandwiches will come from suppliers with sustainable fishing practices. The move reflects growing concern among consumers about the source of their seafood. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

There's nothing fishy about these sandwiches

Sustainable sourcing. Ecolabel will certify that Alaskan pollock in McDonald's Filet-O-Fish is from ethical suppliers

McDonald's says it will be the first U.S. national restaurant chain to carry a label from a group that certifies sustainable fishing practices.

The blue "ecolabel" from the Marine Stewardship Council certifies that the Alaskan pollock used in McDonald's Filet-O-Fish sandwiches comes from suppliers with sustainable fishing practices.

Major retail chains including Walmart and Whole Foods already use the council's label. The non-profit group is paid a royalty fee from companies that use its label. For McDonald's, that means the fee would be based on sales of its fish offerings, such as the Filet-O-Fish and the Fish McBites that will be launched as a limited-time offer next month.

The Marine Stewardship Council, which has its international base in London, has about 300 fisheries in its program, representing between 12 to 14 per cent of the world's fisheries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Creditor claims. Mediation to divvy up Nortel assets fails to reach agreement

Efforts to divide up nearly $9 billion in assets from the now-bankrupt Nortel Networks Corp. ended Thursday without an agreement.

A spokesman for the talks says Ontario Chief Justice Warren Winkler, who was leading the proceedings, has concluded that further efforts at mediation were no longer worthwhile.

The negotiations began in Toronto on Jan. 14 and were supposed to conclude that week. They were extended twice.

This was the third attempt at settling claims against the former telecom manufacturing giant's business lines and intellectual property by about 100 creditors around the world, including companies in 20 countries on every continent except Antarctica.

Nortel filed for bankruptcy in North America and Europe in 2009. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

The myriad of creditors include Nortel pensioners, disabled former employees, bond holders, trade creditors and governments.

It was not immediately clear what next steps would be taken. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Immigration. New visa program aims to woo startups, entrepreneurs

A new program designed to lure startup companies and entrepreneurs to Canada will launch in April.

The startup visa will be limited to those who already have the backing of a venture capital firm in Canada.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney says it's aimed at enticing the best and brightest minds around the world to start new businesses in Canada.

The government will grant a maximum of 2,750 visas a year for each of the five years of the pilot program.

But Kenney says he only expects to see a few hundred people come through the program in the first year as companies figure out how it works.

The program is billed as the first of its kind because it offers applicants permanent residency, as opposed to programs in other countries that only offer temporary status.

The new visa seeks to replaces two older immigration programs aimed at would-be business owners. The investor program and entrepreneur program were put on hold after the government decided they weren't luring enough real business to Canada.

But some caught up in a backlog of applications under those old programs are now suing the government, demanding their applications be processed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

2,750

The government will grant a maximum of 2,750 visas a year for each of the five years of the pilot program.

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1 OCD4SH. I Mother Earth's Brian Byrne is raising awareness about his OCD4SH campaign, a collaboration between his clothing company OCD Collective and the autism foundation Surfers Healing. Through T-shirts designed by the likes of Raine Maida and George Stroumboulopoulos, money raised through sales helps send autistic kids to a therapeutic family surf camp in Cali.

2 Superbaugh. The Super Bowl between the San Francisco 49ers and Baltimore Ravens will see two brothers coaching against each other for the first time in Super Bowl history! John Harbaugh runs the Ravens while his younger brother Jim Harbaugh mans the 49ers. Jim must be saying to John: "Yo bro, remember, I'm your kid brother. Take it easy. It's only a game."

3 Beth Reeks. Further evidence the Internet is the place to get your start: 17-year-old Beth Reeks has signed a three-book deal with Random House after her young adult romance, The Kissing Booth, became a hit online. The book will now be published in paperback this spring. Reeks, the new teen queen of romance, is a young E L James — minus the erotica.

4 Red Pashmina. This grassroots campaign that started out of Peterborough, Ont., to empower and raise money for women in Afghanistan, has now attracted the attention of the UN. The two women behind the bright red scarves, Maryam Monsef and Jessica Melnik, are invited to speak at a United Nations summit in N.Y. on the status of women in March.

5 Obama. Beyoncé sang a rousing (albeit lip-synched) rendition of the national anthem, but the real star Monday on the Capitol steps was Barack Obama, who publicly began his second term as president at his inauguration in front of 800,000 spectators chanting "O-ba-ma!" "Now, more than ever, we must do these things as one nation, as one people," he said. He has four years left to make it happen.

6 Gretzky + Leafs? Social media went nuts this week when a show on The Fan 590 discussed the rumour Wayne Gretzky might be taking over as president of the Toronto Maple Leafs, a position left vacant after the recent firing of Brian Burke. Now if this ever happened, wow. If Gretzky can't save the Leafs, no one can.

7 Arisa Cox. Many of you might remember her from the 2001 Canadian reality series The Lofters. (I do.) So this week when Arisa Cox was named host for the first Big Brother Canada, which debuts Feb. 27th on Slice, it made perfect sense. After all, she knows exactly what it's like to live 24/7 with other strangers while the camera watches.

8 Kutcher at Macworld. Next week is the Macworld/iWorld conference in San Francisco, and Ashton Kutcher will be there to speak about what it's like playing Steve Jobs in the biopic on the Apple icon that is slated for April release. The best part would be if Kutcher actually showed up in character as Jobs. Now that would go viral.

9 Miss O. The Oprah Effect hit Western Canada as she made appearances in Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, talking about everything from the weather — bloody cold! — to the lessons she's learned in life. "Every day you get to paint on the canvas that is your life," she told a sold-out crowd Monday night at Rexall Place in Edmonton. Who's better at motivating than Oprah?

10 Butt Out. This week is Non-Smoking Week in Canada, a campaign that has been running for 30 years. It's great to see so many people talking about #nonsmoking on Twitter. I quit almost 13 years ago. If you're thinking about stopping, go for it. You can do it. Don't let nicotine rule your life.

11 Man bandz. When boy bands grow up, they lose a little hair up top, gain a little more on their back — and reunite sometimes. Yes, NKOTB, 98 Degrees and Boyz II Men are teaming up this spring and stopping in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. As Old Kid, er New Kid, Donnie Wahlberg said in a statement: "Ladies, we're coming for you." Yes, it won't be girls this time.

12 Steve Nash. Captain Canada was given a loud ovation Sunday during player introductions at the ACC in Toronto. But then he and his Lakers played flat (again) in a loss to the Raptors. There are those who still wish he had signed with the Raptors during the off-season. But it's become apparent a 38-year-old Nash in the twilight of his career might not have been the right ending for this national treasure.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

I've got worms ... you want some?

TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tastes like chicken?

Mopane worms a rare delicacy

Sihle Nkomo begins to prepare harvested mopane worms at her home in Gwanda, Zimbabwe.

In Zimbabwe, as well as most parts of southern Africa, mopane worms are a staple part of the diet in rural areas and are considered a delicacy in the cities. They can be eaten dry, as crunchy as potato chips, or cooked and drenched in sauce.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gastronomical goodness

- A Zimbabwean nutritionist, Marlon Chidemo, says the worms are high in healthy nutrients and contain three times the amount of protein as beef.
- He says eating worms is less taxing on the environment than consuming beef because it takes far fewer leaves to produce worms than it does feed to produce the same amount of beef.

Slinging slugs

Get to know the quality of grubs

At the local market, mopane worms are quite popular with residents who buy a cup or two of them and eat them immediately.

The market is abuzz with activity, with most stalls strategically displaying the delicacy so people cannot miss them. Vendors offer free samples. The mopane worms are graded according to size and the area where they were harvested.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mopane around

- Dried mopane worms have become a multimillion-dollar industry, even exported to countries like South Africa and Botswana. They can be found in African restaurants in Paris.
- The worm is the large caterpillar of the Gonimbrasia belina species. It got its name from chomping the leaves of mopane trees.

Worth Mentioning

J.J. Abrams set to direct next installment of Star Wars being released in 2015

Another universe of sci-fi fans has been put in the hands of J.J. Abrams.

According to multiple trade reports, J.J. Abrams is set to direct the next installment of Star Wars, which Disney has said will be Episode 7 and due out in 2015. Disney bought Star Wars maker Lucasfilm last month for $4.06 billion.

The Emmy-award-winning director has also captained the reboot of Star Trek for rival studio Paramount Pictures, with the next installment in that series, Star Trek: Into Darkness, set to hit theatres May 17.

Citing unnamed sources, the news was reported earlier by Hollywood trade outlets The Wrap, The Hollywood Reporter and Daily Variety.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter

@Gymsiren: Nothing screams creepy more than people liking and commenting on fb pics over 2 years old. Get some self-awareness, people!! #rufkm

@dlipstick: S/O to my amazing friends who are contributing to my Winter coat drive once again this year for the Ark Aid Mission! Big love to all of you

@jimbobrays: Katie G happy birthday from the staff @jimbobrays

@SuperDeanio: Got pretty awesome seats for #thePriceIsRight at @BudGardens -- looks like it sold out pretty fast! Hopefully I get to 'come on down!'

@annamstone: In my 3 weeks of course content for 'Cultures of the Caribbean', I've only seen the word 'pirate' once. #disappointing #WesternU

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Jason Statham stars in Parker — a movie without a lot of payoff. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

The heist goes all wrong

Bad + Bad = Bad. Steve Gow joins Richard Crouse this week to help him call out Parker for being a mistake-ridden flop of a film

Richard: Steve, the most shocking thing about Parker is that Jason Statham has hair in the opening scene. His usually close-cropped do is hidden under a wig that makes him look a bit like George Clooney's English brother. Other than that, this is as by-the-book as it gets. Did you buy into the story at all?

Steve: Not really. But as shocking as Statham is brandishing a wig as Donald E. Westlake's popular revenge-seeking character, he wasn't half as unconvincing as Jennifer Lopez when she pops up as the desperate, danger-seeking real estate agent. Was that bad casting or just a bad character?

RC: Her character is baffling. As a pseudo-love interest and almost co-conspirator, she's as grating as her co-star Nick Nolte's voice. If an Emery board could speak, it would sound like the rasp Nolte's vocal chords produce these days. For me, though, the moral of the movie is really skewed. The movie is so intent on selling the idea that the vengeful killer is really a good guy that a character at the end actually wonders if he is some kind of angel. Could it be that in this world bad + bad = good?

SG: I suppose Jason Statham is today's ideal mainstream anti-hero. After all, as mediocre as most of his films are, director Taylor Hackford is at least consistent in delivering what Statham does best — look sinister and kick butt. However, as absurdly indestructible as he is here, the film is too morose to be much fun.

RC: Statham is consistent, I'll give you that. He has two characters: Statham Character number one in which he plays a loner with a past who must protect a loved one and Statham Character number two, which is the loner with a past who must protect a youthful innocent. Here he's playing number one. The loved one is money, although there are a number of other characters that could easily have taken the place of the greenbacks.

SG: I agree. Concentrating on a compelling sidekick almost surely would've helped solve the questionably ineffectual supporting cast here.

One last thing — what kind of a name is Parker anyhow? That lame moniker sounds like Statham should be serving high tea and crumpets to the Crawley family on Downton Abbey, not cracking the skulls of crooked criminals.

Synopsis

After a daring robbery goes bad, thief Parker (Jason Statham) is double-crossed and left for dead. But because the movie is called Parker, he doesn't succumb to the gunshot wounds. Instead, he vows to put things right between him and the gang who cheated him out of his $200,000 split of the loot. "If you make a deal, both sides have to honour it, otherwise there's chaos," he says. "And I won't let chaos take over my life." Except that things get chaotic when he hatches an elaborate plan, involving his real estate agent (Jennifer Lopez), to get vengeance and his money.

Star ratings:

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Steve: ●●○○○

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Hoult: Undead man talking

Warm Bodies. Actor shares what it's like to take on a role that requires only one facial expression

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Nicholas Hoult has tackled trying to get the girl when you're an awkward tween (in About a Boy), a ruthless high-schooler (in TV's Skins) and a blue-haired mutant (in X-Men: First Class).

But those challenges pale in comparison to Warm Bodies, in which he tries to win over a girl (Teresa Palmer) despite the fact that he's a flesh-eating zombie.

How tough is it doing a role that's basically one facial expression for most of the film?
Surprisingly easy, actually (laughs). Narrows down your options and what you have to do at work, and not a lot of dialogue to learn, which is beautiful. But yeah, I read the script and I was like, "This could be a cool film," and then I was like, "Oh, it's kind of tricky, though, isn't it?

You don't get to say a lot, and you've got to move and act like a zombie, but you've also got to have this audience care for you and want you to succeed and have this girl care for you enough and fall for you, and there's a lot to do."

With Teresa, it was just basically watching her do scenes the whole time, her just doing monologue after monologue and then I'd go, "Yeah, keep you safe. Hungry. Eat, whatever."

Have you heard every zombie joke in the world at this point?
You know what, I've made a few terrible ones myself. I've said, like, "Oh, he's a character I really liked and wanted to bring to life." Idiot. I said of the scenes with me and Rob Corddry,

"I found it really difficult not to corpse" (which is British slang for laughing during a scene). So I've made a few terrible zombie jokes, but I haven't actually been on the receiving end of that many so far.

OK, zombies versus vampires. Where do you stand?
Who would win in a fight? Or the transition from vampire to zombie time?

As far as pop culture.
You know what? I'm trying to think. Aside from Twilight, what other vampire films have there been particularly recently? That's the prominent one.

To be honest with you, I would probably have to go with the zombie thing just because I really like Shaun of the Dead and Zombieland and those sort of things, and 28 Days Later and stuff, so I think I'd go for the zombie — and not just because I played one in this film.

After having done this film, do you think you'd have trouble getting excited about doing a more traditional romantic comedy?
I don't know. I mean, I'm a sucker for a rom-com. You know, you feel good and you get all gooey. But I wouldn't want to do one of those ones that's very run of the mill, out of the box, off you go, pay $10 to go and see it and then sit there and nothing new happens.

So it's tricky. I'd like to be able to do all types of films. Action, drama, romance, all of them.

I don't think anyone's going to try to stop you.
So far. Not with force yet, anyway.

Just this year you've got films in several different genres coming out.
Yeah, I've got a fairy tale family adventure movie, "Jack the Giant Slayer." There's mild peril. There's giants that want to eat humans, so you know, I wouldn't take a really young kid to it. But it is kid-friendly and family-friendly.

But you know, you don't want to be taking a 3-year-old to it because they're going to be seeing stuff that might scar them.

Quoted

"You don't get to say a lot and you've got to move and act like a zombie, but you've also got to have this audience care for you and want you to succeed and have this girl care for you enough and fall for you, and there's a lot to do"

Warm Bodies star Nicholas Hoult on playing a zombie who falls in love

Nicholas Hoult finds the apple of his undead eye in Warm Bodies. HANDOUT

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN.25 TO THURS., JAN. 31. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

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Hyde Park on Hudson (PG) Fri 3:15 Sat 1-7:05 Sun 1-5:05 Mon 7:10 Tue 3-7 Wed 1-5:05 Thu 1-7
Inch'Allah (14A) Fri 5:05 Sat 2:50 Sun 7 Mon 3 Tue 1 Wed 9 Thu 5
Promised Land (14A) Fri 7 Sat 9 Sun 2:55 Mon 1 Tue 5 Wed 7 Thu 3
Rust and Bone (18A) Fri 1 Sat 4:45 Sun 9 Mon 4:55 Tue 9 Wed 2:50 Thu 9

Rainbow Cinemas London
355 Wellington St., 519-434-3073

Broken City (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:25-6:55-9:20
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50-7:20-9:25
The Last Stand (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:35-7:10-9:30
Movie 43 (18A) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:30-7:15-9:45
Parental Guidance (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:20
Parker (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:40-7-9:40
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-7:05-9:35
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Thu 7:25

Western Film
Room 340, UCC Building,

The Perks of Being a Wallflower (14A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Skyfall (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-4-7 Mon-Thu 7

Wellington 8 Cinemas
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Broken City (14A) Fri 6:40-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:40-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:20-8
Gangster Squad (14A) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5-7:40
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (14A) Sat-Sun 1:20
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 3:40-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:50
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Sat-Sun 12:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 4-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
The Last Stand (14A) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:45
Mama (14A) Fri 7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20
Movie 43 (18A) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
Parker (14A) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:50-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:10

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La Bayadere - Bolshoi Ballet (STC) Sun 12:55
Django Unchained (18A) Fri 4-6:30-9:30 Sat 2:30-6:30-9:30 Sun 1:40-5:10-8:45 Mon 7:45 Tue 6-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:45
Gangster Squad (14A) Fri 3:30-7:30-10:15 Sat 12:20-4:50-7:30-10:15 Sun 1:20-4:05-6:50-9:40 Mon 7-9:40 Tue 3:30-7:30-10:15 Wed 1:25-7-9:40 Thu 7-9:40 Fri 3:35-10:25 Sat 4:45-10:25 Sun 3:55-9:15 Tue 3:50-9:15
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (14A) No Passes Fri 5:20-7:45-10:25 No Passes Sat 12:40-3-5:20-7:45-10:25 No Passes Sun 2:45-5:10-7:40-10:05 No Passes Mon 7:20-9:50 No Passes Tue 5:20-7:45-10:25 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:20-9:50 No Passes Fri 4:45-7-10 No Passes Sat 2-4:15-7-10 No Passes Sun 2:10-4:30-7-9:45 No Passes Mon 8:15 No Passes Tue 4:30-7-10:05 No Passes Wed-Thu 8:15
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri 3:25-6:40-10:15 Sat 3-6:40-10:15 Sun 4:20-8 Mon 7:45 Tue 3:25-6:40-10:15 Wed-Thu 7:45
The Impossible (PG) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:55 Sat 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:55 Sun 4:10-7-9:45 Mon 6:50-9:35 Tue 4:10-7:10-9:55 Wed 1:20-6:50-9:35 Thu 6:50-9:35
Lincoln (PG) Fri 3:50-6:30-9:50 Sat 1:20-3:10-6:30-9:50 Sun 1:10-4:30-7:50 Mon 6:30-9:45 Tue 3:50-6:30-9:50 Wed 1:15-6:30-9:45 Thu 6:30-9:45
Parker (14A) Fri 3:35-7:20-10:10 Sat 12:30-4:30-7:20-10:10 Sun 1:20-4:50-7:30-10:15 Mon 7:10-9:55 Tue 3:35-7:20-10:10 Wed 1:25-7:10-9:55 Thu 7:10-9:55
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 3:45-7-10 Sat 1-4-7-10 Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-10 Mon 6:40-9:30 Tue 3:40-7-10 Wed 1:30-6:40-9:30 Thu 6:40-9:30 Fri 7:30 Sat 1:30-7:30 Sun 1:10-6:30 Mon 7:15 Tue 6:30 Wed-Thu 7:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Sat 12:20 Sun 1:40
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri 4-6:50-10:20 Sat 1-3:20-6:50-10:20 Sun 2-5:30-9 Mon 8 Tue 4-6:50-10:20 Wed-Thu 8 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

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Broken City (14A) Fri-Sat 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:40 Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:55-10:25 Mon 1:15-4:30-7:20-10:10 Tue 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:40 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:20-10:10
Django Unchained (18A) Fri 12:10-3:35-6:55-10:35 Sat 12:05-3:45-7:05-10:35 Sun 12:10-3:35-6:55-10:35 Mon 2:30-6:50-10:10 Tue 12:10-3:35-6:55-10:35 Wed-Thu 2:30-6:50-10:10
Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (PG) Mon 7:30
Gangster Squad (14A) Fri 12:15-2:40-5:15-7:55-10:45 Sat 12:15-2:40-5:15-8:05-10:45 Sun 12:10-2:40-5:15-7:45-10:10 Mon 1:40-4:25-7:25-9:55 Tue 12:15-2:40-5:15-7:55-10:45 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:25-7:25-9:55
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters — An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) No Passes Fri 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 No Passes Sat 11-1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 No Passes Sun 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:40 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:40
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 12:05-3:30-7:10-10:25 Sun 11:55-3:15-7:10-10:25 Mon 1:25-4:40-8:10 Tue 12:05-3:30-7:10-10:25 Wed-Thu 1:25-4:40-8:10
Johnny English (PG) Sat 11
The Last Stand (14A) Fri 12:25-2:55-5:40-8:15-10:45 Sat 3:25-5:55-8:25-10:55 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:20-8:15-10:40 Mon 1:25-4:20-7-9:45 Tue 12:25-2:55-5:40-8:15-10:45 Wed-Thu 1:45-4:20-7-9:45
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4:50-7:25-10:05 Sun 4:50-7:25 Mon 5:15-7:50-10:25 Tue 4:50-7:25-10:05 Wed-Thu 3:45-7:05-10
Mama (14A) Fri-Sat 12:35-3-5:25-7:50-10:15 Sun 12:25-3-5:25-7:50-10:15 Mon 2-4:35-7:35-10:20 Tue 12:35-3-5:25-7:50-10:15 Wed-Thu 2-4:35-7:35-10:20
The Metropolitan Opera: La Clemenza Di Tito Encore (STC) Sat 12
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:50-7-10:10 Sun 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 Mon 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Tue 12:40-3:50-7-10:10 Wed 4:10-7:20-10:30 Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-2:45 Mon 1:05-3:10 Tue 12:40-2:45 Wed-Thu 1:05
Movie 43 (18A) Fri 12:30-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:45 Sat 12:30-2:50-5:20-8:20-10:45 Sun 12:30-2:50-5:20-8-10:35 Mon 1:20-3:30-5:50-8:15-10:35 Tue 12:30-2:50-5:20-7:45-10:45 Wed-Thu 1:10-3:30-5:50-8:15-10:35
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sat 12-2:05 Sun-Mon 1 Tue 12-2:05 Wed-Thu 1
This Is 40 (14A) Fri 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:30 Sat 1:30-4:35-7:35-10:30 Sun 12:55-4:15-7:05-10:05 Mon 1:10-4:15-10:05 Tue 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:30 Wed 4:15-7:15-10:05 Thu 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
WWE Royal Rumble - 2013 (STC) Sun 8
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri 4:10-7:20-10:30 Sat 4:10-7:20-10:50 Sun 3:25-10:30 Mon 3:15-7:10-10:25 Tue 4:10-7:20-10:30 Wed-Thu 3:15-7:10-10:25

Dame Maggie Smith stars in Quartet. HANDOUT

Three songs for the weekend

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

This week's selections go far beyond the usual three-chords-and-an-attitude approach, but will pay off with repeated listening. Trust me.

Inhaler/Foals

Best use of a falsetto so far this year. Radiohead-ish, Cure-ish and Tears For Fears-ish with bonus big guitars. New album, Holy Fire (Feb. 11), might be their big breakthrough.

This Town Needs Guns/I'll Take the Minute Snake

Like Foals, they're from Oxford. And they've also studied the math rock tendencies of their Radiohead neighbours. The new album is 13.0.0.0.0.

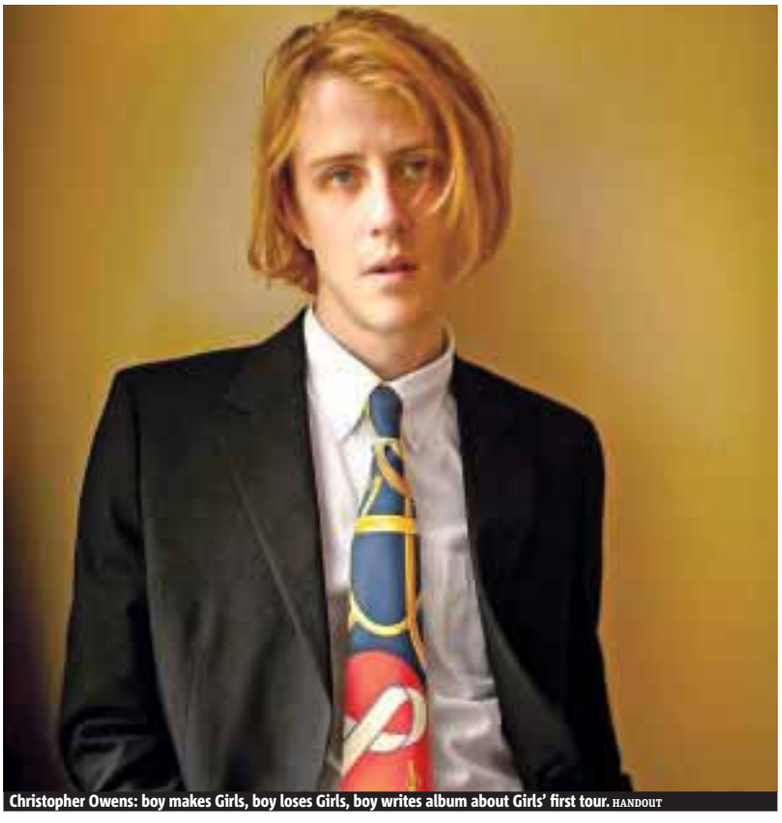
Another Brick in the Wall/ Aysedeniz Gokcin

Wherein a young Turkish pianist transforms Pink Floyd into classical pieces of which Franz Liszt would be proud.

Just one of the Girls

Music. Christopher Owens on the story of his new concept album

PAT HEALY
scene@metronews.ca



Christopher Owens: boy makes Girls, boy loses Girls, boy writes album about Girls' first tour. HANDOUT

After disbanding Girls last year, the first project that singer Christopher Owens chose to tackle under his own name was a concept album called Lysandre. The work — full of saxophones and flutes and Owens' take on classic pop-song architecture — might seem like the furthest thing from his previous band, but the narrative arc is all about Girls' first tour in 2008.

"It starts out being excited to go on that tour and not really knowing what to expect, because I hadn't done any tours before that," he says.

While he's dealing with his Girls experience in a very specific way on this tour, he won't play any Girls songs.

"I will play those songs again in the future," he says. "But I feel like with this album and this tour, it's clearly a thing — and it's kind of obvious that it will be a show of this album."

But Owens wrote the material for Lysandre shortly after that first tour, while Girls was still going.

"I didn't put (the songs) away to not work on them with Girls or anything," he says. "They were just seven songs out of the 60 or so that I wrote in those couple of years. And I guess I always kind of thought they would be Girls songs."

Name game

What does Owens think of the HBO show, Girls?

I haven't really watched much of that show. I just didn't really enjoy the fact that they used the name.

When I very first saw that it was a show coming out, I didn't really think about it. And then as I heard more about the show, I realized it was being worked on and made by people who definitely knew who our band was and knew that we existed and were definitely aware of us.

They could have simply added one word, or used a different word, and made it a different thing instead of straight taking the name as if it didn't matter at all.

It's something that I let go of pretty quickly, but at one point I realized that it was definitely a conscious choice that they made, just because of the people involved. They clearly were aware that we were functioning under that name and they kind of just viewed themselves as so big, and so much more of a big project, that it didn't matter. It could have been so simple to make it a different name. It could have been New York Girls or whatever.

There was a point where I realized that and I got a little bit offended, that's all. ... And I guess the whole thing kind of resolved itself when I ended up not wanting to be in a band anymore anyway.

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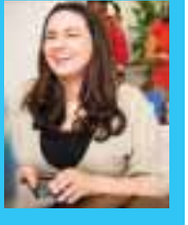

Knock, knock: You have two children

Seed. Sperm donor tracked down by his kids on new TV show

JON TATTRIE
scene@metronews.ca

Seed airs on Citytv starting Monday, Feb. 4. You can watch the premiere online on the Citytv website starting this Monday. HANDOUT

What would happen if a carefree bachelor answered his front door and discovered he was father to a nine-year-old boy and a teenage girl?

The question occurred to Joseph Raso when a friend became pregnant via a sperm bank. Fascinated by the process of choosing a stranger to be the biological father to your child, he wondered what it would be like if the donor entered into your life unexpectedly.

"How do kids change you? And what if it went zero to 60 and suddenly you have a nine-year-old?" he says. "How does it affect the donor and the other families?"

Seed was born. It's a TV show about Harry, whose bachelor bliss has long been funded by regular deposits at the sperm bank. One day, one of those donations learns how to hack a computer to find out who his biological father is — and knocks on Harry's door. Soon enough, a teenage girl follows, along with a woman pregnant with another of Harry's donations.

For Harry, the challenge is the tug of war between his desire to be with his biological children and his desire to pick up hot women at the bar.

One of Harry's entanglements is Rose, a beautiful, neurotic single woman whose date with the sperm bank leads to an accidental relationship with Harry. "From that point forward, their lives are entwined," says Carrie-Lynn Neales, who plays Rose.

"She's just wildly insecure," she adds during a break in filming. Rose wants a child, but doesn't want a father to the child. She wants to be single and independent, but wants a relationship with an amazing guy called Aaron.

When asked if bar-tending Harry is typical of the guys she knows, Neales laughs and tries to compose an answer that won't offend any of her friends. "You'll find aspects of Harry and Aaron in this age bracket," she says diplomatically.

Seed is Neales's first starring role. "It's amazing — really a dream come true," she says. "It's a huge learning curve."

TV picks

True stories of brainwashing: This week on TV

Viewers can catch up on the new comedy series 1600 Penn, about the First Family of the U.S., with Friday's back-to-back episodes. In the first, President Gilchrist (Bill Pullman) and his generals hold a group-therapy session while his wife (Jenna Elfman) does some damage control. In the next instalment, the president hosts a ball for a cranky senator and son Skip (Josh Gad) wants to attend the bash with a fetching mailroom clerk. **(Citytv)**

Brainwashed is a new series profiling the true stories of those who've been coerced into committing extreme acts. In this second instalment on Friday, Predator Prophet, we learn of a single mom who fell in love with a self-proclaimed Mormon Prophet and became his "spiritual wife." He eventually persuaded her to sell her possessions, give up her children and commit adultery. But even when he was imprisoned, she wasn't convinced to leave him. **(History)**

Maroon 5 frontman and The Voice judge Adam Levine makes another appearance on Saturday Night Live, but this time as host, not musical guest. The latter role will be filled out by Compton, Calif.-bred rapper Kendrick Lamar, who's earned rave reviews for his latest album, good kid, m.A.A.d city. **(Global)**

Paul Merton's Adventures follows the British comedian as he visits fascinating spots around the world. In the debut episode Saturday, he boards the biggest luxury ocean liner in the world and tours the Caribbean. Along the way, he gets lost on a reef in Mexico and meets the Jamaican dogsled team as well as a ferocious tiger. **(Discovery World HD)**

Awards season fever continues with the live broadcast of The 19th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards, which honour performances in television and film on Sunday. This year's SAG Life Achievement Award recipient is Dick Van Dyke. He'll receive the honour from Carl Reiner and Alec Baldwin at the Los Angeles Shrine. Other presenters include Jeff Daniels, Neil Patrick Harris, Nicole Kidman and Julianna Margulies. **(Global)**

Starz unveils the final instalment in its Spartacus gladiator saga Sunday. Spartacus: War of the Damned sees the titular character (Liam McIntyre) continuing to win battles with his rebel army and freed slaves after the defeat of Roman commander Gaius Claudius Glaber. **(The Movie Network, Movie Central)**

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Liquid Assets

Cheers to Robert Burns

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

I have fond memories of Robert Burns.

Growing up in Halifax, it was a standard post-Saturday-night-on-the-town ritual to enjoy a little fast food in Victoria Park, along Spring Garden Road, before the walk home. The best seat in the house was along the pedestal of the life size monument to the bard that's been standing there since 1919.

Though I don't remember drinking much in the way of Scottish booze back in the day, I'll be raising a glass of something tonight in celebration of Robert Burns Day.

Scotland's claim to liquid fame is scotch — a polarizing whisky typically drunk straight. Rich, aggressive and swimming in personality, it can be a hard glass to swallow for most.

A fine dram to get your palate wet is Bowmore 12 Year Old ($45.99 to $64.99); the first recorded single malt distillery (back in 1779) on the island of Islay.

Softer than your average Islay whisky, it offers a rounded, honeyed malt flavour massaged by hints of the classic smoky/peaty character that's made the island famous.

If the thought of drinking scotch without mix doesn't blow your bagpipe, try softening the spirit by adding a touch of spring water.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

This recipe serves six. LORELLA ZANETTI, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Southern flavours are a fiesta for taste buds

Tex-Mex Flank Steak with Corn Salsa.

Bursting with flavours, this dish will be just as good the next day

ROSE REISMAN
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With the sauce and corn salsa accompaniment, this is a great Southwestern dish. Sautéing the corn gives it a barbecued flavour.

Be sure to allow time for marinating the steak. Leftovers taste just as good the next day; either reheat gently or serve at room temperature.

1. Whisk the barbecue sauce, vinegar, molasses and hot pepper sauce in a bowl. Place the flank steak in a shallow, non-reactive baking dish and pour the sauce over the steak. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight.

2. For the salsa, spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil. Place over medium heat, and sauté the corn and red pepper until the corn begins to brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in the beans, onion and cilantro. Set aside.

3. Remove the steak from the marinade, and set the marinade aside in a small saucepan.

4. Preheat the barbecue or a non-stick grill pan to medium-high and spray with cooking oil. Cook the beef over medium-high heat for 5 to 8 minutes per side, or until it's done to your liking.

5. While the steak is cooking, bring the reserved marinade to a boil and boil for 5 minutes. Serve the steak with the sauce and salsa on the side. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

- 1 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/3 cup cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp molasses
- 1/4 tsp hot pepper sauce
- 1 1/2 lb flank steak

Salsa

- 1 cup canned corn kernels, drained
- 1 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1 cup canned black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/3 cup chopped green onion
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro

Get your guac on

Give guacamole a boost with a few different flavour combinations that are still very simple to make.

Ingredients

Base Guacamole

- 4 Hass avocados, skins and pits removed
- 4 tsp lime juice
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 ground black pepper

Base Guacamole

1. In a medium bowl, use a fork or potato masher to mash the avocados. The guacamole should be mostly smooth, but with visible chunks. Mix in the lime juice, cumin, salt and pepper. Proceed with the recipe using one of the following mix-in combinations.

Chipotle Corn Guacamole

1. In a medium skillet over medium-high, heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Add 1/4 cup diced red onion, 1 cup of corn kernels (if canned, drain them very well) and 3 minced cloves of garlic. Sauté for 2 minutes, then remove from the heat and let cool. Stir in 1 diced canned chipotle pepper (packed in adobo sauce). Stir the mixture into the base guacamole recipe, as well as 1 tablespoon (more or less, to taste) of the adobo sauce from the can.

Shrimp and Mango Guacamole

1. Thaw a 9-ounce bag frozen cooked and peeled baby shrimp, then drain and pat them dry. Peel 1 mango, then cut the flesh away from the pit. Finely chop the mango, then stir it, the shrimp and a hefty splash of hot sauce into the base guacamole recipe.

This recipe serves 12. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events.

MIX OF SIX
Julian Uzielli
london@metronews.ca

Olenka and the Music Archive

Saturday, Call The Office (216 York St.) will host the launch party for the Ontario Independent Music Archive, an online database that will serve as an archive for the work of independent Ontario artists, for use by musicians and fans alike. The show features four artists spanning four genres: TreeTop feat. Casper, Olenka and the Autumn Lovers, NFG and Learning, The Band. Doors open at 9 p.m. and cover is $5 or any donation you can afford. Image courtesy of Scott Bentley.

Lawyers do Dylan

Saturday at the London Music Club (470 Colborne St.) a group of London lawyers will perform a musical tribute to Bob Dylan. The concert is in support of the London chapter of Lawyers Feed the Hungry, a charity that has been providing food relief to the less fortunate since 2003. Since then, the charity's musical efforts have raised more than $200,000. The show starts at 7 p.m. and tickets are $20 at the door. All proceeds go to Lawyers Feed the Hungry. Image courtesy of Daniel Maller.

Starry Night Skating

Friday from 6 to 8 p.m., Oxford Learning is hosting a night of skating under the stars at Storybook Gardens (1958 Storybook Lane). The annual event supports a different charity each year, and this year's beneficiary is the Make-A-Wish Foundation. A limited amount of skates will be available to rent, so best to bring your own if possible. Make sure to dress extra warm and take advantage of the hot drinks available at the concession stand. Admission is by donation. Photo by Julian Uzielli.

'Finger lickin' bad'

On Thursday, Jan. 31, Richmond & Tower Productions opens their latest play at the ARTS Project (203 Dundas St.), Killer Joe by Tracy Letts. The dark comedy isn't your average night out at the theatre — drugs, sex, violence and crime abound in the play, described by Richmond & Tower as "finger lickin' bad." The fledgling theatre company has produced a slew of hits since their debut in 2011 — expect a thrilling good time. Killer Joe runs until Feb. 9. Tickets are available for $20 in advance by calling 519-642-2767. Image courtesy of Richard Gilmore.

The sweetest show on TV

On Monday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m., Rogers TV (cable channel 13) will premier a new London-based reality show that pits local contestants against each other to be crowned London's next top apprentice chocolatier. Guided by host Marc Forrat, owner of Forrat's Chocolates, each week the contestants will take part in a series of demanding chocolate-making challenges. The ultimate winner will apprentice with Forrat at Forrat's Chocolates. The show airs every Monday for eight weeks. Image courtesy of Sandra Thom.

Home Show away from home

This weekend, the Lifestyle Home Show rolls into town. The 20th annual show will host a slew of vendors and exhibitors from across the home and design industries, including flooring, appliances, kitchens and bathrooms. There will also be an ongoing series of speakers and seminars throughout the weekend, including talks from Ramsin Khachi, construction expert, and Paul Lafrance, host of HGTV shows Decked Out and Deck Wars. The show is on at the Western Fair District (900 King St.) from Friday to Sunday. Admission is $10. Image courtesy of Jodi Mabee.

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Offer available on select new 2013 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by January 31, 2013. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. ¥3 Payments On Us offer is available on approved credit to eligible retail customers who finance or lease a select new 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD) from a participating dealer between January 3rd – January 31, 2013. Eligible lease and purchase finance customers will receive a cheque in the amount of three payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $550 per month. Lease and finance purchases are subject to approved credit. Customers will be given a choice between up to $1,650 reductions from the selling/leasing price after taxes or dealer can issue a cheque to the customer. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. Offer ends January 31st, 2013. **0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013 Kia models on approved credit. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD) with a selling price of $29,078 [includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650, tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable)] financed at 0% APR for 60 months. 130 bi-weekly payments equal $224 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ≠Bi-weekly finance payment (on approved credit) for new 2013 Sorento LX AT (SR75BD) based on a selling price of $29,078 is $181.52 with an APR of 1.49% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $9,294.23 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650, $1,650 "3 Payments on Us" savings, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies) and A/C charge ($100, where applicable) are included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399) and registration fees are extra. Offer cannot be combined with Don't Pay Until Spring promotion. ®The Bluetooth® wordmark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. ^Highway/ city fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Sorento 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T). These updated estimates are based on Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia Canada is the official automotive sponsor of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

Olympics

Feds pledge $40M for 2014 Sochi Winter Games

The federal government is priming the financial pump for Canada's athletes with the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, just over a year away.

Bal Gosal, the minister of state for sport, says that almost $40 million will be spent on Canada's winter athletes this winter.

Anne Merklinger, the head of Own The Podium, says that's more money in going into an Olympic and Paralympic Games than ever before.

Many of Canada's winter athletes have world championships coming up in the next few weeks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Upton brothers join forces in Atlanta

Justin Upton is having a family reunion in Atlanta.

Arizona traded its star right fielder to the Braves on Thursday in a seven-player deal that sent former all-star infielder Martin Prado to the Diamondbacks.

For the first time since he was a high-school freshman, Upton will have older brother B.J. Upton as a teammate.

The brothers combine with Jason Heyward, who won a Gold Glove in 2012, in an outfield potentially packed with power and speed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justin Upton GETTY IMAGES FILE

Islanders forward Matt Moulson scores on Ben Scrivens on Thursday in Toronto. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Islanders give Leafs a rude awakening

NHL. Grabner scores twice as Islanders rally for big win in Toronto

Matt Moulson and Michael Grabner had two goals each as the New York Islanders rallied for a 7-4 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Thursday night.

Moulson had one of three third-period goals for the Islanders (2-1), who overcame a 3-1 first-period deficit to earn the win before an Air Canada Centre gathering of 19,125. Grabner, with two, and Keith Aucoin also scored in the third for New York.

On Thursday

Islanders	Leafs
7	4

Toronto (2-2) fell to 0-2 on home ice this season and returned to the ACC following a solid 5-2 road victory in Pittsburgh on Wednesday night. But that didn't impress some Leafs fans, who began to chant "Let's go Blue Jays" with 2:40 remaining.

Grabner gave New York a 4-3 lead at 3:27 of the third, firing a wicked wrist shot past Ben Scrivens for his second of the season before Aucoin scored his first just 1:08 later to put the Islanders ahead 5-3. That was it for Scrivens, who allowed five goals on 20 shots in his third start of the season.

Scrivens was replaced by James Reimer, who got the win in Pittsburgh. But Reimer was beaten cleanly by Moulson's wrist shot at 11:20 for his second of the season.

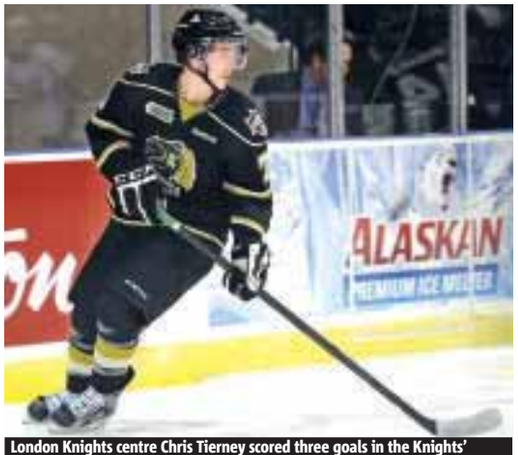
The Islanders were playing for the first time since beating Tampa Bay 4-3 on Monday and opened a five-game, eight-day road trip against Toronto.

Matt Frattin's goal at 17:47 made it 6-4 and gave the Leafs forward three points after being recalled from the AHL's Toronto Marlies earlier Thursday. Grabner added a short-handed empty-net goal at 18:50.

Mark Streit and former Leaf Brad Boyes had the other goals for the Islanders.

Carl Gunnarsson, Nazem Kadri and Mikhail Grabovski also scored for Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



London Knights centre Chris Tierney scored three goals in the Knights' 11-1 win over the 67's in Ottawa on Thursday night. AARON BELL/OHL IMAGES FILE

Floodgates open for Knights against 67's

For the second time in less than two weeks, the Ottawa 67's were thoroughly embarrassed by the London Knights, this time 11-1 on home ice.

On Jan. 11 in London the Knights doubled Ottawa 10-5 in a game that flattered the 67's compared to Thursday. Not only did the 67's get outscored by double digits, they were also outscored 4-1 while on the power play.

Tyler Ferry, Josh Anderson, Max Domi and Seth Griffith all scored short-handed for the Knights, although Griffith's goal did come on a penalty shot as well.

On Thursday

Knights	67's
11	1

Domi had two other goals for his third career hat trick while Chris Tierney collected his first hat trick in the OHLs. Bo Horvat had two goals for the Knights (36-8-3) and Dakota Mermis had four assists.

Brett Gustavsen scored a first-period power-play goal to account for the only scoring the 67's (12-33-3) would receive despite seven power plays. They were also outshot 45-20.

The Knights led 3-1 after the first and 6-1 after 40 minutes and scored four times in seven man advantage opportunities.

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4 SPORTS

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Australian Open

Azarenka fights nerves to make final

Victoria Azarenka had to endure some anxious moments before and after her win over American teenager Sloane Stephens.

Li Na wasn't flustered at all in an easy victory over No. 2-ranked Maria Sharapova.

Li will play for the Australian Open title against Azarenka, who ended Stephens' unexpected run to the semifinals that included a quarter-final upset of Serena Williams.

Another player who had little trouble Thursday was defending champion Novak Djokovic, who overpowered David Ferrer 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 in just 1 hour, 29 minutes.

Djokovic will attempt to win his third consecutive Australian Open when he plays the winner of Friday's semifinal between Roger Federer and Andy Murray on Sunday.

Azarenka needed six match points to finish off a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Stephens that included a medical timeout.

Australian Open officials said the tournament doctor reported that Azarenka had left knee and rib injuries.

"I just felt a little bit overwhelmed. I realized I'm one step away from the final and nerves got into me for sure," Azarenka said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Victoria Azarenka receives treatment from a trainer on Thursday in Melbourne, Australia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Sept. 11, 2011, file photo, Jackie and Jack Harbaugh, parents of San Francisco 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh and Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh, stand before a game between the 49ers and the Seattle Seahawks in San Francisco. The entire Harbaugh family already got its Super Bowl victory last Sunday, when each coach did his part to ensure a family reunion in New Orleans next week. PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Harbaughs in stands vow to stay neutral

Super Bowl 47 lead-up. Family of Ravens and 49ers coaches not saying where they'll be sitting on game day

Jackie Harbaugh will wear a neutral-colored outfit, still to be determined. Her daughter, Joani Crean, little sister to coaching brothers John and Jim Harbaugh, plans to sport all black at the Super Bowl to show no allegiances whatsoever.

"I am wearing whatever fits that day," Crean quipped.

The entire Harbaugh family — a close-knit, hyper-competitive crew that also includes Indiana basketball coach Tom Crean — realizes it has already won big. They got their Super Bowl victory on Sunday, when each coach did his part to ensure a family reunion in New Orleans next week, with John's Baltimore Ravens facing off against Jim's San Francisco 49ers in the first Super Bowl with sibling coaches on opposite sidelines.

One Harbaugh will haul home the Lombardi Trophy from the Big Easy.

And, no, the family members haven't decided where to sit for the Feb. 3 NFL title game at the Superdome — or at least they aren't revealing it if they have.

Quoted

"I am going to be neutral in the game, and I know one is going to win and one is going to lose, but I would really like to end in a tie. Can the NFL do that?"

Jackie Harbaugh, mother of John and Jim Harbaugh, jokes about watching the Super Bowl.

"We are neutral in the Super Bowl, and we are just excited that they have brought their teams to the pinnacle of sports," Jackie Harbaugh said Thursday. "The Super Bowl is the ultimate accomplishment for them and for their teams and for all of the extended football family and all of the teams who have participated in this great game. We are excited for that type of thing."

Her sons, all of 15 months apart, have tried to downplay this matchup from the moment it developed — each wanting to keep the focus on the players, on the field.

Fortunately for the Harbaugh folks, they've been through this once before, albeit on a slightly smaller stage: Prime time on Thanksgiving night 2011. John's Ravens won 16-6 at home.

"We experienced that last year at Thanksgiving," Jack Harbaugh said, "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relationship hoax. Te'o plays voice mails from 'girlfriend' on Couric show

The person Manti Te'o says was pretending to be his online girlfriend told the Notre Dame linebacker "I love you" in voice mails played during his interview with Katie Couric.

Taped earlier this week and broadcast Thursday, the hour-long talk show featured three voice mails that Te'o claims were left for him last year. Te'o said they were from the person he believed to be Lennay Kekua, a woman he had fallen for online but never met face-to-face.

After the first message was played, Te'o said: "It sounds like a girl, doesn't it?"

"It does," Couric responded.

The interview was the All-American's first on camera since his tale of inspired play after the deaths of his grandmother and girlfriend on the same day in September unravelled as a hoax in an expose by Deadspin.com on Jan. 16.

Manti Te'o THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Couric addressed speculation the tale was concocted by Te'o as a way to cover up his sexual orientation. Asked if he were gay, Te'o said "no" with a laugh. "Far from it. Faaaar from that."

He also said he was "scared" and "didn't know what to do" after receiving a call on Dec. 6 — two days before the Heisman Trophy presentation — from a person who claimed to be his "dead" girlfriend.

The first voice mail was from what was supposed to be Kekua's first day of chemotherapy for leukemia.

"Hi, I am just letting you know I got here and I'm getting ready for my first session and, um, just want to call you to keep you posted. I miss you. I love you. Bye," the person said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Convincing voice?

- Couric suggested the person who left the voice mail messages might have been Ronaiah Tuiasosopo, a 22-year-old man from California, who Te'o said has apologized to him for pulling the hoax.
- Tuiasosopo has not spoken publicly since news of the hoax broke.

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Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
So long as you enjoy what you are doing, you won't care in the slightest what other people think. Life is simply too short to worry about whether the world sees you as a "good guy" or a "bad guy".

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The only danger today is that because you insist on everything being thought out and planned in advance you might lose the spark of spontaneity that turns good ideas into great ideas. Be more open to alternative viewpoints.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Today's Sun-Uranus link is sure to change your life for the better in some way. Exactly how and to what extent is impossible to know but by this time tomorrow you will have both a wider and deeper view of reality.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Don't limit yourself to tried and trusted methods. Try something new for a change. Uranus, planet of changes, is urging you to be a bit more adventurous, especially on the work front where you should be taking the lead.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You must live up to your beliefs, even if it brings you into conflict with people you would prefer not to make enemies of. You are entitled to think for yourself and to express your opinions, loudly if needs be.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have been ignoring a number of warning signals and that's not a good idea. Today's Sun-Uranus link will again indicate where you have been going wrong and this time you must take appropriate action.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Try not to exert yourself too much today. Given the choice between doing more or doing less, choose the latter without hesitation. You've done your bit, so treat yourself to a break.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you are typical of your sign, you sometimes find it hard to think outside certain limits or boundaries. But, today's Sun-Uranus link will shatter any barriers that are holding you back. The word "impossible" should not exist.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You could easily mislead yourself today about an issue that seems unimportant but is likely to have far-reaching consequences. Check every relevant fact. Don't take anything on trust, not even what your own senses tell you.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Forget about perfection today. Just aim to be as good as you can be at what you do and be happy with that. It's always good to set yourself new goals but it's not good to make them unreachable.

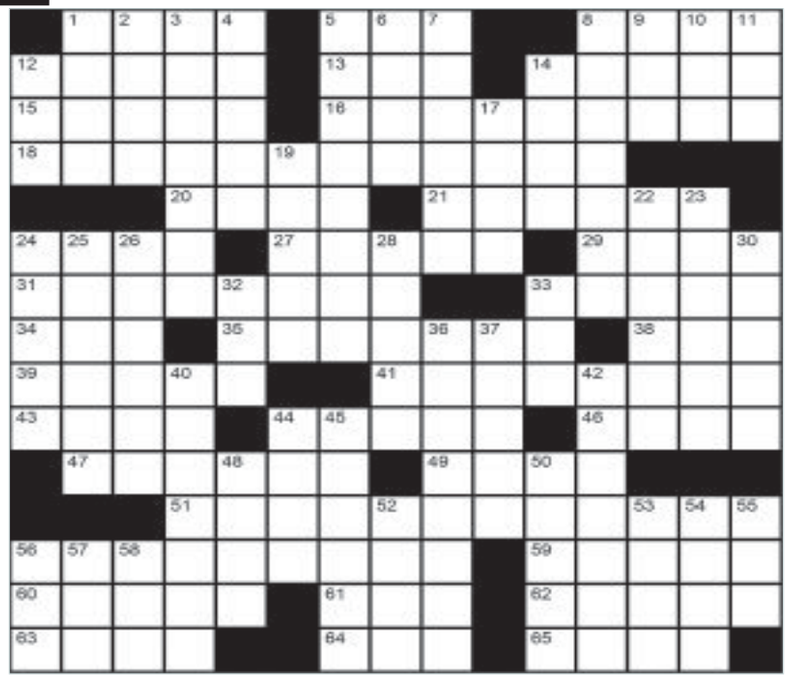
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun in your sign makes a positive link to your ruling planet Uranus today, which in plain language means that all your best traits will come to the forefront. Others will see you as some kind of genius.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You must not be indecisive today, because an opportunity will arrive out of the blue and if you don't make use of it immediately it will pass you by just as quickly. You may not feel confident, but act as if you are.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

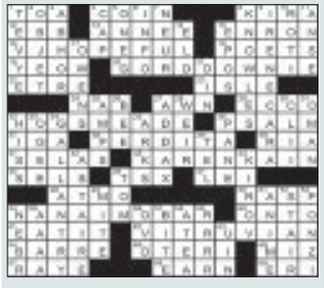
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. "Piano Man" Billy
5. Sea: French
8. Hong __
12. Valley of BC, Bella __
13. Wonderment
14. __ Vanilli
15. Commencement
16. Canadian singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
18. "Hansel & Gretel __ __" (2013)
20. Abound
21. Madonna's 1996 title role's namesakes
24. Irving Wallace novel, __ _ Document
27. Start of a challenge: 2 wds.
29. Dr. Frankenstein's pal
31. "The Matrix __" (2003)
33. Terminate
34. Music's __ Young Band
35. Movie studio
38. "__ _ Have to Say the Words?" by Bryan Adams
39. Ms. Tyler (of CBS' "The Talk")
41. Vito Corleone's gig: 2 wds.
43. Capital of Qatar
44. "Ocean __" by 54-40
46. Truck types
47. Late-Medieval war helmet
49. 'Exfol' ending
51. "Hockey Night in Canada" feature: 2 wds.
56. 90-second healthy living TV spot
59. Contaminate
60. Destiny's Child, and others
61. __-la-la
62. Ms. Macphail, Canada's first woman MP, in 1921
63. Fridge's friend
64. Ruler measurements [abbr.]
65. Shakespearean King

Down
1. Music's Ms. Mitchell
2. Flemish painter, Jacob van __ the Elder
3. Music genre, __-pop
4. Workshop machine
5. Shaun of "This Hour Has 22 Minutes"
6. Mr. McGregor
7. Tenant
8. Actress Ms. Alley
9. Not new
10. Atlanta Braves' baseball div.
11. __ rummy
12. Moo-er
14. Great Big Sea song: "__-Mac"
17. Ms. Campbell
19. Reality star Ms. Montag
22. "In-_-__-Da-Vida" by Iron Butterfly
23. "Must you leave __ __?"
24. Sole pattern
25. Charioteering sun god
26. Ms. Cuthbert of ABC's "Happy Endings"
28. Commander __ (Lorne Greene's role on the late-1970s version of "Battlestar Galactica")
30. Harnesses
32. Grammy competitor, commonly
33. Gladiator's 111
36. Actress Ms. Hargitay's
37. What the insurance commercials duck says
40. Brit singer Ellie Goulding's current album
42. Norm
44. Particular fruit
45. "Yada, Yada...": 2 wds.
48. High-arc tennis shots
50. "__ Recall" (1990)
52. Damage
53. Fashion brand, __ Ricci
54. Power, for short
55. Lefts opp.
56. "Takin' Care of Business" gr.
57. Popcorn's Mr. Redenbacher, for short
58. Board game cube

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

						6	1	
9		7	8	1				
			7	5				8
	9	8					6	1
3								4
2	4					7	9	
1				4	3			
				6	2	8		3
	6	3						

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	9	5	1	2	3	7	6
3	6	2	9	7	4	5	1	8
7	5	1	6	3	8	4	9	2
1	3	4	8	5	7	6	2	9
2	9	8	4	6	3	7	5	1
5	7	6	2	9	1	8	3	4
8	4	7	1	2	5	9	6	3
9	1	3	7	4	6	2	8	5
6	2	5	3	8	9	1	4	7

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The "Red Neck" Corner

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Patrick Taylor

Jason Leuszler

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Red Neck Joke of the Week

You are a red neck if...

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E	S	E	G	K	M	Y	B	K	N	C	M	L	I
R	L	G	V	A	O	O	B	C	O	O	X	F	S
I	E	N	S	Y	L	C	V	E	I	M	B	U	H
F	E	I	Q	A	L	A	T	N	T	M	U	N	I
P	P	P	G	K	A	N	R	D	A	A	H	B	N
N	I	M	N	I	M	O	A	E	E	H	U	F	G
A	N	A	I	N	H	E	V	R	R	I	N	S	U
C	G	C	K	G	S	I	E	K	C	T	T	R	R
I	B	E	I	S	R	N	L	E	E	B	I	E	O
H	A	F	B	F	A	G	Y	N	R	J	N	L	A
N	G	Q	Q	N	M	I	T	O	R	H	G	I	D
L	G	N	I	E	E	S	T	H	G	I	S	A	T
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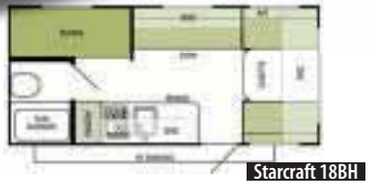

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